

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

----- 030186

R 111100Z JULY 75

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0500

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAHORE 0812

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: RAMAY TO LEAVE CHIEF MINISTERSHIP FOR SENATE
(AND CABINET?)

REF: A. LAHORE 491

B. LAHORE 493

1. CONFIRMING WEEKS OF PRESS AND PUBLIC SPECULATION AND TIPS FROM PERSONAGES MOST CLOSELY INVOLVED (REFTELS), IT WAS OFFICIALLY REVEALED JULY 10 THAT PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER MUHAMMAD HANEEF RAMAY WILL SOON STEP DOWN TO STAND FOR ELECTION TO PAKISTAN SENATE. PRESS AND PRIVATE SOURCES AGREE LATTER TO SERVE AS STEPPINGSTONE TO HIS APPOINTMENT TO CENTRAL CABINET.

2. REVELATION CAME IN FORM OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ISLAMABAD BY PPP GENERAL SECRETARY MUBASHAR HASSAN THAT RAMAY HAD BEEN AWARDED PARTY TICKET TO CONTEST ONE OF FIVE SENATE SEATS FROM PUNJAB TO BE FILLED THROUGH INDIRECT ELECTION (I.E. BY PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY) JULY 24. RAMAY ACKNOWLEDGED INTENTION TO RUN FOR SENATE IN PUBLIC MEETING HERE SAME DAY.

COMMENT: SINCE UNDER CONSTITUTION ARTICLE 223 NO PERSON MAY SERVE IN BOTH PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY AND CENTRAL PARLIAMENT,
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RAMAY HAS TO RESIGN FROM PA WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS IN ORDER TO ENTER SENATE. RESIGNING FROM PA WOULD AUTOMATICALLY MAKE HIM INELIGIBLE TO REMAIN CHIEF MINISTER.

3. PRESS SPECULATION, CONFIRMED TO US BY THREE PUNJAB CABINET MEMBERS AMONG OTHERS AT SOCIAL FUNCTION LAST NIGHT, HAS RAMAY RESIGNING AS CHIEF MINISTER OVER WEEKEND, MAKING WAY FOR PPP PARLIAMENTARY PARTY IN PA TO MEET AND SELECT NEW LEADER TO BECOME CHIEF MINISTER WHEN ASSEMBLY RECONVENES NEXT MONDAY, JULY 14. ODDS-ON CHOICE TO SUCCEED RAMAY IS FORMER GOVERNOR NAWAB SADIQ HUSSAIN QURESHI, RECENTLY ELECTED TO PA IN MUZAFFARGARH BY-ELECTION.

4. MEANWHILE, RUMORS PERSIST THAT GOVERNOR GHULAM MUSTAFA KHAR WILL CLEAN THE SLATE BY RESIGNING GOVERNORSHIP SHORTLY AFTER CHANGES IN PROVINCIAL CABINET ARE EFFECTED.

5. SPECULATION ALSO REMAINS STRONG THAT RAMAY, EMTER JOINING SENATE, WILL BE AWARDED CENTRAL MINISTZQSHIP FOR HIS COOPERATION IN RESOLVING PUNJAB POLITICAL TANGLE. ONE LOCAL VERNACULAR (SIASAT) TODAY REPORTS FROM ISLAMABAD CORRESPONDENT THAT RAMAY IS LIKELY TO BE GIVEN PORTFOLIO OF REVIVED MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING FOR WHICH HE HAS GOOD EXPERIENCE. SAME PAPER REPORTS KHAR, AFTER RESIGNING, MAY TRAVEL ABROAD INCLUDING MONTH IN U.S.
SPENGLER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAHORE00812
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750241-0593
From: LAHORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750798/aaaagpyk.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LAHORE 491
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971008
Subject: RAMAY TO LEAVE CHIEF MINISTERSHIP FOR SENATE (AND CABINET?)
TAGS: PINT, PK, PINT, (RAMAY, MOHAMMAD HANEEF)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006